

The Visitor

Immanuel Lutheran Church

October 2018 * Volume 56 #9



A Way to Pray

How do you pray? The answer is simple: Just talk with God. In its simplest, most basic form, prayer is just talking with God, opening our hearts to God and listening for God's answer.

If only it were always that simple. Most of us need more structure than that.

When we were baptized, we (or our parents and sponsors for us) professed our faith in the words of the Apostles Creed. Later we learned the Lord's Prayer and the Ten Commandments. These words are at the center of our Christian faith. Why not use them as a structure for your prayer?

Take one of these three texts and recite it prayerfully. Say it as a prayer. Be present attentively and see how the Holy Spirit works through the words. Listen to what God is telling you through the text at that moment in time.

Ask questions as you pray. Develop your curiosity. How has the Spirit guided you through the commandments to better follow Jesus? When you fall short of the commandments, how can you ask for and receive forgiveness? How do the commandments inspire you to follow and serve God and your neighbor better?

Similarly, with the Creed and the Lord's Prayer. Take your time. Listen. How does God speak to you through these simple words? How do you feel Christ's presence?

Just as your life is different each day, so will your prayer time. Let the structure of the words be a safe container for being with God. Let the words take on their own life and become a living Word through which God speaks to you anew. Each day will be different. God does not change, but your experience with God will change as you pray.

End your prayer with a short time of silence, even if only for a few seconds. How is God present with you? How is God calling you?

And remember to listen.

Peace,

Pastor Burgess

PS The 10 Commandments, the Apostles Creed, and the Lord's Prayer are on the next page for you to tear off or copy. Carry them with you to help you remember the words better. (I have to do this from time to time too. Sometimes it's OK to forget. ☺)

The Ten Commandments

- 1 You shall have no other gods.
- 2 You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God.
- 3 Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy.
- 4 Honor your father and your mother.
- 5 You shall not murder.
- 6 You shall not commit adultery.
- 7 You shall not steal.
- 8 You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
- 9 You shall not covet your neighbor's house.
- 10 You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

The Apostles Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only
Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy
Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was
buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the
Father,
and he will come to judge the living
and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

REMINDER: Please notify the church office either by *calling (203) 238-1248* or with a note placed in the offering plate when a family member is/will be hospitalized so the church can provide appropriate care and prayers for you and your family member. Thank you for your help.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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OFFICE HOURS
9am-1pm Monday-Friday

THE NEXT VISITOR

Articles for the November Visitor will be due on October 24th. Please get your articles in on time, that way the Visitor can be in everyone’s box by November 1st. Thanks, Diane

Another way to receive Immanuel’s Visitor

If you wish to receive Immanuel’s monthly newsletter via email, please email the office at office@immanuelmeriden.org using the email address you want the Visitor sent to. Please note “Visitor email listing” in the subject line.

Thank you to the congregation and friends for saving the Box Tops for Education. Please continue to save the Box Tops. Below is an example of what they look like:



These labels are sent to the Navajo Lutheran Mission in Arizona. A collection box is attached to the bulletin board, outside Augustana Hall. Please continue to save these labels for this worthy cause.

Cindy McCarthy

The Word in Season

The October/November/December issue of the daily devotional *The Word in Season* is available in the main entrance way. On the inside front cover, one of the editors, Pastor Rochelle Melander, shares an idea of how to overcome “negativity bias”. Since we all can dwell on the negative from time to time this devotional reminds us that “God has chosen us to be God’s own, walks with us through every good and challenging moment and blesses us”. Pick up a free copy for yourself and share one with a friend.

Family Scribbler

We could sure use your help! Immanuel's Education team wants to plan learning opportunities that parents and caregivers would attend with their children. However, we are not sure what such events look like. Is there interest in family style suppers, musical events, service opportunities, Christian speakers, arts & crafts or a Christian book sale...? Joanne Gardner and Kim Freeman are present most Sunday's to listen to your desire for making God/Jesus and God's Spirit known to all.



October 28th is Reformation Sunday. Remember to wear something **red**.
See you in worship,
Kim Freeman

Calling all College students: Once you are settled in your dorms and classes are under way; please remember to let us know your current address. Email it to office@immanuelmeriden.org (please put “college address” as the subject). Thanks!

Stewardship News:

As we start the fall season we begin our annual stewardship campaign. The theme for the campaign is *All Hands on Deck* focusing on how we all must work together and how we can use our hands to help our ministry. We kicked off the campaign with a discussion at a town hall fellowship on Sept 16th. A mailing will be going out the first week of October and we will return our commitment cards on Reformation Sunday, October 28th. There will also be a potluck fellowship following service that day. If you can't attend on the 28th you can mail or drop off your completed pledge cards at the church office.

ATTENTION!

Watch the lobby by the office for information about Operation Gratitude. Martin's Messengers will be collecting a number of items for our soldiers. Check the table for a list of goodies

Thank you for your generosity

Membership Update

In the near future you will be receiving in the mail a questionnaire concerning information to update our membership rolls. We ask that you look this letter over and fill in the questions. This information will be inserted on our files on the computer. We ask that you please fill it out to the best of your ability and return it to the church. If you have any questions please get in touch with Pastor Burgess, our secretary Diane Murphy, Kim Freeman, June Barton or Jan Sprude. Thank you for taking the time to help us update our files.

Season of Blessings Update

Our next seasonal blessing will be Sunday, October 7 after worship when we will bless our animals and pets in the parking lot. This is an opportunity to give thanks for and bless the animals God has given us as companions in our journey here on earth. Bring your dog, cat, bird, fish, iguana, goat, . . . to the parking lot after worship the first Sunday in October and have them blessed. So, you can go home to get your animal and come back, the blessing won't start until about half an hour after Sunday morning worship, probably about 11:30.

If the weather isn't good, we will gather near the door where we can be sheltered from rain.

If actually bringing your pet themselves isn't practical, bring something from them: a picture, collar, feeding dish, blanket, favorite toy, or just share their name. This is also a way to honor a beloved pet who is no longer with you. Giving thanks for the faithful departed is a special kind of blessing.

In the interest of world peace, remember to bring a suitable leash or carrier. Remember that as good as your pet might be with people and other animals, not all are and you might need to restrain your animal in order to help out with someone else's.

This is once again an excellent opportunity to invite your family, friends, and neighbors who might not otherwise feel comfortable coming to more "churchy" events. You probably know someone who needs their pet blessed or to be blessed through their pet. Invite them and bring them along.

Here's the schedule for the rest of the "Season of Blessings":

Date	Time & Place	Blessing
October 7	After worship Parking Lot	Pets & Animals
November 4	During worship Inside	Healing

October Celebrations



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Jennifer Brooks	10/03
Jennifer DuBois	10/04
Courtney Garbe	10/05
Cory Burlison	10/06
Jenna Schultz	10/07
Linda Langner	10/07
Linda Gianokos	10/08
James Bender	10/09
Jenesis Hodge	10/11
Lucas Andrews	10/12
Joyce Carter	10/14
Tracy Becker	10/15
Joanne Gardner	10/15
Cindy Ziemelis	10/16
Daniel Gardinier	10/20
Jean Benoit	10/24
Diane Dingwell	10/24
Dorothy Johnson	10/25
Anthony Pascucci	10/25
Julia Lopez	10/26
Christine Kronenberger	10/30



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Suzanne and Keith Salerno	10/01
Laurel and Thomas Strielkauskas	10/01
Freddie & David Lindsey	10/01
Charlotte and Charlie Gardinier	10/04
Carolyn and Herbert Ziemelis	10/05
Catherine and Ralph Broder	10/05
Rita and Lawrence Bates	10/14
Sandra and Gary DoBratz	10/18
Shirley and Crandall Fohlin	10/06
Christine & Jason Kronenborger	10/20
Kim and Jim Freeman	10/28

Vandalism at Immanuel Lutheran Church
Overnight Sept. 8 - 9, 2018

Following worship on September 9, I was made aware that some graffiti had been spray painted on one of the Cook Ave doors, steps, and stair rail overnight. The image was basically a vulgar image and the other spots were just randomly spared on light colored lime green.

Following a little investigation, we determined that the police do not accept graffiti complaints, but do photo the “work” for comparison to other graffiti done in the area to determine if it is consistent and perhaps traceable to a perpetrator or source for accountability.

The church property damage insurance coverage has a \$2,500 deductible before it pays any damage claims.

In an extraneous conversation with an NA member, she offered the resources of our local NA groups to cleanup, and to the extent necessary, repair/repaint the door as a gift to the congregation for our extending our facilities to them for their weekly meetings. I accepted their offer to clean up the defacement as a quid pro quo donation for the use of Augustana Hall for a Sept 29 afternoon memorial fund raiser event for an NA member who had recently died.

The first step of the cleanup was done the morning of Sept 12 and was well done. The graffiti was removed from the door, steps, and hand rail, but some of the base red paint was removed and the door will have to be repainted. (The four door panels at the corner entries will have to be painted to match up aesthetically, and will be done by the NA members from their own supplies). The work should be completed Sept 16, weather permitting, otherwise it will be done as soon as the weather permits. My appreciation goes out to the NA members for offering to do this job for us.

Charlie Gardinier

September 12